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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Denis A. Davis

Action taken by the Committee

Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area

(Agenda item 13)

At the ____ meeting on __ April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The great diversity of questions and problems arising from small-scale mining indicates that regional case studies should be conducted.

In recognition of the efforts and results obtained by United Nations agencies, further regional and national case studies should be conducted in selected regions and countries, in respect of selected mineral products.

Since technical, environmental and social problems are a major concern in this connection, integrated approaches are to be considered a priority.

The case studies should provide an integrated view of environment (physical and biological settings considered in an ecosystem analysis), social, economic and technological issues.

Risk analysis and technologies to mitigate and prevent negative effects on the environment, health and the social structure should be stressed.

In view of the above considerations, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare for the forthcoming session of the Committee a study on small-scale mining. The study should discuss:

(a) The impact of small-scale mining on environmental and social aspects of the regions selected, (giving priority to precious metals, industrial minerals and construction materials);

(b) The drawing up and/or adaptation of related legislation and regulations;

(c) Typical, mechanized small-scale mining operations; conditions and possibilities for implementing them; and improvement of miners' working conditions.

Special attention should be given to the position and role of women in small-scale mining.